

The Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A packaged decorated composite frozen confection product comprising:
 - an open-ended shell made of a solid, fat-based composition and having a shell wall that defines an interior volume for holding at least a portion of an ice confection therein, the shell wall having a substantially smooth outer surface;
- 10 a decorative pattern design forming a portion of the smooth surface outer wall, said pattern design comprising strings of a first semi-solid confection material that form a mesh of strings and a second confection material of a contrasting color to that of the first confection material located between the strings;
- 15 a packaging sleeve for protecting all or part of the outer surface of the shell; and
 - a filling of a frozen confection at least in the interior volume of the shell.
- 20 2. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the strings are flattened or pressed to assist in forming the smooth surface outer wall.
- 25 3. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the shell has a consistent and even wall thickness and the outside surface is shiny.
- 30 4. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein after removal of the packaging sleeve, the shell may be handled with the frozen filling at least initially maintaining the fat-based composition in solid form with good definition of the patterned design.
- 35 5. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the packaging sleeve includes a transparent section that is positioned to show the pattern.

6. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 5, wherein the shell has a conical shape with an apex and a bottom portion of packaging sleeve close to the apex is transparent.
- 5 7. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 5, wherein the entire packaging sleeve is transparent.
- 10 8. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the fat-based composition comprises chocolate.
- 15 9. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the decorative pattern design includes lines, a writing, a logo or a symbol.
10. The decorated composite frozen confection product according to claim 1, wherein the frozen confection comprises ice cream or a sorbet and the pattern is a fat that has a color that contrasts with that of the fat-based composition of the shell.
- 20 11. A method for producing a packaged decorated composite frozen confection product which comprises:
forming a packaging sheet into a cone sleeve,
dispensing strings of a first semi-solid confection material from a dispensing head with a plurality of holes into the thus formed packaging sheet at random and so producing a mesh of strings on the inside of the sleeve,
25 lightly pressing the mesh of strings against the sleeve into a mesh cone within the sleeve,
adding a second confection material of a contrasting color different to that of the strings into the sleeve containing the mesh cone,
30 forming a cone with contrasted mesh lines of the first confection material embedded into a cone wall of the second confection material and
providing a frozen confection at least in the interior volume of the shell to form the product, with the sleeve forming part of the packaging.
- 35 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the packaging sleeve is provided with a transparent section so as to show the pattern.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the entire packaging sleeve is transparent to fully show the pattern through the packaging.

5 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the decorative pattern includes lines, a writing, a logo or a symbol.

10 15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the fat-based composition comprises chocolate.

15 16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the frozen confection comprises ice cream or a sorbet.

17. A method for producing a packaged decorated confection product which comprises:

forming a packaging sheet into a receptacle,
holding the formed receptacle into a female holder of a complementary shape in a vertical position,

shifting holder to a horizontal position,
pressing a male printing head comprising a pattern against the receptacle interior wall and so transferring the pattern from the printing head to the receptacle interior,

retracting the printing head from the female holder,
pivoting the holder to a discharge position and discharging the receptacle,
transporting the printed receptacle so discharged to a further processing step of forming a printed confection product.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the packaging sleeve is provided with a transparent section so as to show the pattern.

30 19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the entire packaging sleeve is transparent to fully show the pattern through the packaging.

35 20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the decorative pattern includes lines, a writing, a logo or a symbol.

21. The method according to claim 17, wherein the fat-based composition comprises chocolate.

5 22. The method according to claim 17, wherein the frozen confection comprises ice cream or a sorbet.

10 23. The method according to claim 17, wherein the receptacle is a cone sleeve.

10 24. The method according to claim 17, wherein the confection product is a composite frozen confection comprising a decorated chocolate shell in a sleeve which is filled with ice confection with the sleeve forming part of the packaging.